The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

The Bonnet of To-Day

So far as mere woman is concerned, and what she will wear on her head for the ensuing days, be it known that the leaders of dress and the designers of fashion have met, and the fall hat has arrived in all the charm and innovations of its loveliness. Those who know say that we will not have anything strikingly original or positively new and startling in the hat line for early autumn wear, but many of the favored shapes have been retained.

One observes the fashion books, and the pages are bright with little hats, big hats, wide and broad affairs of dashing contour and color, Oriental turbans, Breton bonnets, Napoleon helmets and really almost any kind of a hat that the soul of woman might desire with which to frame her pretty face. Just at present the most notable features of the fall millinery are the great height of the tall, peaked crowns and the wing-like arrangement of wired bows. The tall crowns are appearing on all sorts of hats, from the largest affair for dress occasions to the smallest bonnet for street wear. The wired bows trim everything, and are used in almost any arrangement and style on the newest hats seen in the shops. And such wonderful combinations of colors and tones as we do find! Really the fall hats are little dreams, and the face of a lovely woman will look even more fetching and piquant, framed in a cunning Breton bonnet, made and trimmed in the softest shades of felt and satin.

Coque plumes are going to be used a great deal. One very attractive combination shown at a recent opening was the use of the coque feathers with side revers of a contrasting color on a very small hat with a very tall crown. Feathers of every sort will be used a good deal, though the willow plume seems to have sung its swan song for a while at least. The latest model, straight from the fashion capital, is an all feather hat, combining coronation blue with French gray in both the crown and narrow brim, with a wide wing of the same feathers just a little to one side.

One of the most popular hats of the present is shaped like a thimble, having a high crown, rounded at the top, while the narrow brim resembles the rim of a thimble very closely. The usual trimming upon such a hat is a feather or brush made of marabou, posed either at the side or in the extreme centre, but floral decorations may be used as well. These blossom decorations are lovely wild flowers and garden ones, appearing on the same hat.

But whatever the hat, the style, the woman, the time has come for the feminine world to pin on the last summer straw and sally forth in search of a new affair to adorn her head for the winter season. If she be of much means, she will arrive in her machine or carriage, but most probably, says a patient and never-tiring shopkeeper, will she arive on foot, and not in the best of humors at that. Then will she try on every hat in the store, whether it be the hat for the rich or the hat for her purse, and you must stand cheerily by and see your prize exhibits pulled about. Even then, shopkeeper, after three and four long hours, she will smile sweetly into your face and remark that "she was only looking around and would be in again next week." A prayerful and upright shopkeeper manages to hold his tongue and his temper and how the customer from the shop, but others have been known to mention facts. Next year they sell no hats.

When Putting in Yokes.

The home dressmaker can save much trouble and many stitches when putting yokes into her frocks by purchasing an inexpensive bust form. Provided this form faithfully models one's own neck and shoulder lines, not a single stitch need be put in the wrong place. It is only necessary to put the gown on the figure, wrong side out, and baste in the yoke. One woman who puts both thought and much exquisite hand work into her wardrobe bought a "dummy form" in her own hip size and then made two waists of heavy white drill, one with and one without a collar. These she puts on the form as occasion requires, stuffing them out with cotton wool. It was she who invented the above mentioned method of putting in yokes.

Hints to the Hostess.

It is easy enough to get prizes for women, but those for men are distracting to most hostesses. One woman who was told by her husband that men didn't like prizes, decided to have but one set—lingerie breakfast caps. These went to the highest score at each table. Every high score was owned by the men. Instead of giving the cap to his partner each winner gaily carried it home.

Two decks of fine cards in a case make an acceptable prize for men.

Boxes of twenty-five Havana cigars will please, provided they are selected by men. Cigarettes are equally good.

There is a new tobacco pouch that looks like a small leather purse, with silver frame and clasp. This filled with cigarette mixture will delight smokers.

A novel meerschaum pipe in a leather case is a safe choice. A new one is in gourd form, with amber mouthpiece.

A silver trinket is a pipe filler and cleaner in silver. This folds into small compass, but when open has one end square for pressing down the tobacco; the other end has a tiny spoon for scooping the sides clean, and in the middle a pick for cleaning the stem.

Purses and memorandum books are commonplace and little appreciated.

A folding umbrella to carry in a suitcase and an umbrella in a can is a favorite prize for those who are liberal.

Articles for the motorist are not a bad choice. A box of individual paper cups will prove a boon in touring, so will a small silver cup in a leather case. Fitted lunch baskets, two thermos bottles, road maps, a pocket magnifying glass, with pointer attached for following the roads on a fine map, all make prizes worth while if not cheap.

Serve crystals of rock candy with after-dinner coffee instead of loaf sugar.

Liqueur bottles filled with fine Jamaica rum are passed on the coffee tray with the cream jug. Or the rum is sometimes put in squat earthenware jugs of quaint shape. A few drops in black coffee give a delightful flavor.

Very smart are tiny coffee cups of white Dresden, set in carved silver holders.

As men like more than the small amount held by the usual after-dinner cup, there is a new size between a teacup and small coffee cup in Dresden, white and gold and other fine wares.

Crystallized ginger should be passed. It makes a nice combination with unsweetened black coffee.

FOR THE PROMENADE. L'Art de la Mode.

Evening Gowns, Past and Present

Consider the lilies, in other words, turn from hats to gowns and see once more what the lovely women with lots of money and nothing to do will wear this winter and have worn long since.

Evening dress during the coronation season in London in June sat a standard of splendor and lavish that will require generously lined pocketbooks to keep up with. Never were seen such brocades, such tissues of gold and silver embroidered with pearls and jewels, such laces, such fabrics as were worn at the functions preceding and succeeding the great event. A description of the costumes worn at the presentation ceremonies at Buckingham Palace reads like an account of fairy queen raiment, and, of course, the bare words convey little idea of the beauty and sumptuousness of the wonderful gowns with their magnificent court trains, and the superb jewels which accompanied them.

All the fabrics for evening use this season are exceptionally rich and luxurious—wonderful East Indian hues, vivid, yet soft and elusive, which will be veiled with tissues of gold and silver, rare lace, chiffons, heavy and clinging with bead and worsted embroideries and airy tulles and nets weighted with fringes.

Some of the American dressmakers are railing at what they call the "upholstery" fashions that Paris has set for the coming season; and of a truth the heavy brocades, the coarse-patterned macrime laces, the fringes, the metallic guimpes and the huge tassels do suggest sofa coverings and lambrequins—until one has seen them made up into Paris-inspired costumes. Then one only exclaims, "How superb!" and falls into ecstasies over the harmonious blending of so many rich materials.

During the eighteenth century, woman's dress consisted of a bodice and looped drapery over a petticoat of contrasting material. The bodice and drapery were all in one piece and were called the "sacque." Very elegant costumes has sacques of brocade over petticoats of satin; humble models were made of chintz or of homespun or of pinted lawn. This old style sacque is suggested by some of the new evening gowns which have under-petticoats of contrasting fabric, the tunic drapery being slashed or looped up to show this contrasting skirt. A gown of this sort was worn in Paris at the premier of a new play last month. Over a petticoat of gold cloth veiled with plum-colored chiffon was a draped tunic of purple brocade which was slashed at the front to display the handsome underdress. Quantities of wide gold lace were appliqued to the skirt and showed through the chiffon. More of the lace trimmed the plum chiffon bodice, over which seemed to float a cloud of lavender maline.

There are those who sigh for good old days and good old fashions of past generations, and it does seem as if all the lovely things that have been stored in somebody's old trunk in somebody's old garret might grace the balls and functions of the season very prettily.

How to Bleach White Fabrics.

The yellow cast in white fabrics or garments which have been stored away, or for other reasons become yellow, will remain so unless a bleach is used to restore the whiteness. Javelle water is excellent for the purpose, but one must carefully follow directions and thoroughly wash the bleach out after using, so as not to injure the fabric. To those who do not know the process of making this bleach I give the formula:

Javelle Water.—One pound sal soda, or preferably pearl ash; one-quarter pound chloride of lime, two quarts cold water. Mix thoroughly and let it stand several hours. Pour off the clear liquid and bottle for use. Keep in a dark, cool place. Use the sediment for scrubbing purposes.

In using this preparation as a bleach, add a half cupful to a boiler of water, and after washing the article in tepid suds, place them in the boiler and steam, but do not boil the pieces. A half hour will be sufficient. Prepare a tub of soft water containing bluing. Put the steamed articles through it; then rinse them twice. Hang the articles in the sun to dry. The continued use of flour starch will, in time, give a yellow cast to clothing. Lingerie should be starched with boiled lump starch.

If clothes are to be soaked, use cold water, for hot water will set most stains. Chloride of lime alone is a good bleacher, used in the proportion of one tablespoon of lime to one quart of boiling water. Most stains will yield to this remedy, but as it takes out all color, it can only be used upon white goods. A faded cotton dress, which is no longer pretty, can be turned into a useful white dress by means of chloride of lime.

To bleach colored or white embroidery, or any other white goods that has become yellow from having been laid away for a long time, put the articles to soak in buttermilk for two or three days, then launder them in the usual manner, and you will find them nicely bleached.

Another method of bleaching colored embroideries, such as doillies and centrepieces, and things which cannot be boiled lest the colors fade, is to dip an old pillow-case, or something similar, in very deep bluing water, let dry, and if not very blue dip again, and dry again. Wash the embroidered pieces, dry in the shade, then put in the blue bag and hang in the light several days. They will come out almost as white as new.

A mildew stain may be removed from linen by covering the mildewed surface with salt and lemon juice and laying the linen in the sun. Keep it exposed to the sun all day, moistening it with the salt and lemon juice every hour. At night wash it in clear water and hand it up to dry. If all the stains have not disappeared, renew the application of salt and lemon the next day. Be patient if it is a little slow, for it will remove the stain effectually and will not weaken the fibre of the linen. Sour milk is also usually effective in removing mildew.

Lemon juice and salt will also remove rust stains from linen without injury to the fabric. Wet the spots with the mixture and lay the linen in the sun. Two or three applications may be necessary if the rust be of long standing, but the remedy is said to never fail.

A few drops of oxalic acid will remove ink spots from white fabrics. Saturate the spot with the acid, rinse in clear water, and then soak it in ammonia.

Foreign Fashions of Interest

Gaiter top shoes are having a great vogue in Paris. They are unquestionbaly the smartest footwear of the season, and are being largely worn in black patent leather with white leather tops. The gaiter and shoe are in one, not separate; therefore the only part of the shoe that is black is the toe of the vamp, for the remainder is in white, sometimes even the covering of the heel.

These black and white shoes are worn both with simple tailored suits and with dressy afternoon costumes. The combination of black and white is used with all colors. But, as the great fashion in Paris is for black and white or navy blue and white, these shoes accord well with the majority of costumes.

Pure white shoes having white cloth gaiter tops and white kid toes or vamps are also popular. White shoes are worn with dark tailored suits, and are among the novelties in footwear.

Suede ties, in colors to match the dress, are being shown, but as the black and white footwear is so much more popular these colored novelties have had considerably less sale.

For evening wear metal effects prevail to a great extent. Gold and silver and steel-colored metal cloths are greatly employed. Metal cloths shot with color and with black are preferred to the bright toned metal cloths.

Metal and colored silk embroideries are used on evening slippers. The patterns in embroidery have changed somewhat from floral or so-called French effects to the more Oriental designs and colorings. Thus slippers of gold and silver cloth show embroideries in emerald green, royal purple, coronation red, and copper yellow.

Skirts Still Narrow.

Any hope one may have had that the narrow skirt would not survive this summer is nipped in the bud. It would be difficult to get along the street at all if skirts were two inches narrower than they are now.

We are so used to them that they do not astound us as they did last year at this time. Then they were a sensation; now they are accepted as a matter of course.

Many women do not like them, but they meet with far more approval now than then. Probably "tolerate" is a better word than "approve" in defining the mental attitude of the majority of women; but the fact is the skirt is here, and one must either take it or look a trifle old-fashioned.

Judgment can be used as to just how many inches it measures, but even Worth, the most exclusive of all the fashion creators, does not make his skirts over, if quite, two yards wide.

There is this tobe said, however, that no dressmaker showed a skirt that curved in at the knees at the back, which after all was the ugly defect of last season.

The new narrow skirt is a vast improvement on the old one, because its lines are really straight. The gores hang plumb from the waist.

While the panel down the back is definitely old-fashioned there is all manner of drapery that gives grace.

On the tailored suits there are two or three somewhat narrow panels that are free of the foundation, but are caught at the hem and well weighted, so they do not fly out.

These are bound with satin by Doeuillet, who makes snappy coat suits, and are left plain by Francis, who make the Queen of England's cothes.

Americans dress far better than royalty, however, and they are not influenced by any fashions that the latter take up; even the choice of the Queen of Spain, who is in Paris, interests them only from sheer curiosity.

Coquettish Fall Styles

There is a coquettish style about many of the suits brought in for the early fall, and many of the summer's fancies are in evidence in both coats and skirts. That there is to be a continuance of the liking for a mixture of fabric and contrast of material in the same gown is certain. While border effects are few, though they are not entirely gone, the two distinct materials brought together in one model will be much used. Borders are seen among the handsome wools. One of the new wools on a counter yesterday was of black and white stripes with a three-inch border of the same stripes going crosswise. The suit in the drawing is gray serge and the underskirt showing between the open panels and also the collar and cuffs are gray and black stripes. There is an odd side frill, a little different from the frills that have been worn so long.

Short Skirt Gone.

The short skirt for daytime functions of any elaborateness is gone. In its place is a more graceful model which comes to the floor all around and often develops into a small train.

Fringe is trimming everything. It even edges the bottoms of long tunics with the effect of having the fringe at the bottom of the skirt. Odd aprons are among the tunic arrangements. And it is a new fancy to have these aprons of lingeric materials like the fichus or waist fronts of which they are a part. Some of them look like dainty sewing aprons, being short and square at the corners exactly like an apron.

There is no end of whims of breaking up skirts. In one silk gown there was a white vest front to the waist, and this lace ran down into the skirt about to the knees, ending in a square-cornered piece that looked like an apron cut too narrow.

Just below the piece edging it at the bottom was a big square bow of black velvet ribbon, the ribbon running all around the skirt just at knee height.

Some Ways of the World

There is one woman who has never dom way. So this summer when I went for my stint I asked the priestess, and found that she was wiser in her generation than I had supposed.

"Why," she said, "they all chose dusters, as you did, and the poor babies couldn't be clad in cheesecloth squares when cold weather came. So the committee talked it over and concluded that this was the fairest plan as they were tired of always having all the garments fall to their lot. You will soon find the little clothes more interesting than dusters, Miss S——, I am sure. 'Will you take two bundles?' At this I fled, but I saw the justice of one bundle, though I often wish the duster days back again."

In the season of prize-giving for various golf or tennis events, nine out of ten winners omit to thank the actual giver, but just say "How good-looking" when they take the trophies from the club mantels or desks and transfer them to their grips. This is true, not only of men from whom many persons have ceased to expect good manners, but aso of young unmarried women whose social value is not so high that they can afford to ignore these ancient amenties. Some remmmber to thank their entertainers, sending bread-and-butter letters not only to their hostesses with whom they have stayed during the tournaments in their honor, but in almost every instance the prize-givers are forgotten, and many a donner of some handsome piece of silver has asked at the club desk, "Who won my prize?" A woman who annually gives a costly prize at one club said after a recent tournament:

"I never get a word of thanks from any of the hot-pollol that win what I put up, but I do hear howls of chagrin from those who lose. And it is only through the howls of these mug hunters that I know my prize has been good-looking enough to be a bone of contention."

"It used to be," sighed a philanthropic spinister, "that the sewing society that I belong to would give the member a choice of the things they were to make during the summer months for autumn distribution, but now the managing priestess bundles up assorted lots, and I have little boys' bloomers and little girls' rompers unloaded on my mercy, when I've never dressed a child in my life, and haven't any idea how such garments are put together. I am always able to wheedle the chambermaid into doing them, but I wanted to know why things were distributed in such an apparently ran-

Fashions in fancy work change just like fashions in anything else, but